

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 09447 150953Z

15

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SY-05 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 DODE-00

ERDA-05 /065 W

----- 077606

P 150816Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6439

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9447

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, HK, OVIP

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWER: VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF J. J. ROBSON,
SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

1. SUMMARY: I HAVE JUST RECIEVED A "PERSONAL, CONFIDENTIAL AND IMMEDIATE" LETTER FROM J.J. ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, INFORMING ME OF HIS PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON AND REQUESTING ASSISTANCE. HE EXPECTS TO ARRIVE ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, VIA AA 463 FROM TORONTO. ROBSON REQUESTS THE NECESSARY CLEARENCES TO VISIT SECURE INTALLATIONS. HE WISHES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT U.S. EXPERIENCES IN THE OPERATION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS NEAR LARGE CONCENTRATION OF PEOPLE, AND IS INTERESTEDIN OUR PRESENT THINKING ON THE ECONOMICNS OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS COMPARED WITH OIL FIRED PLANTS. ROBSON ALSO REQUEST A HOTEL RESERVATION FOR THE NIGHT OF WEDNESDAY,AUGUST27. AS IT IS VERY POSSIBLE THAT HONG KONG WILL BUY FROM THE US IF IT DECIDES TO BUILD A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, AND AS ROBSON IS THE INDIVIDUAL WITHIN THE HKG WHO WILL HAVE MOST SAY REGARDING THE DECISION, I URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO BE A FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE WITH REGARD TO HIS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. TEXT OF PERTINENT PORTIONS OF ROBSON'S LETTER FOLLOWS:
"DEAR MR. CROSS, FOLLOWING AN INVITATION FROM THE CANADIAN MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, I MADE PLANS TO VISIT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 09447 150953Z

OTTAWA, EN ROUTE TO ENGLAND FOR LEAVE, FOR DISCUSSION WITH

OFFICIALS THERE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH NUCLEAR REACTORS AND POWER PLANTS (THE CANDU IN THE CASE OF CANADA) AND TO FOLLOW THIS WITH A VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND LONDON, FOR TALKS WITH OFFICIALS THERE.

3. "MY VISIT TO OTTAWA HAS NOW BEEN ARRANGED FOR SUNDAY, 24TH AUGUST WITH TALKS STARTING NEXT DAY. I LEAVE FOR CANADA NEXT FRIDAY, 22 AUGUST. I HAD PLANNED TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW THIS WITH A TRIP TO WASHINGTON AND IN FACT I HAVE PLANE RESERVATIONS ON FLIGHT AA 463 WHICH ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON FROM TORONTO AT NOON ON WEDNESDAY, THE 27TH OF AUGUST..

4." WHAT I WISH TO LEARN ABOUT IS EXPERIENCE SO FAR IN THE OPERATION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT NEAR LARGE CONCENTRATIONS OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE PROBLEMS OF

(A) SHUTTING DOWN THE PLANT IN AN EMERGENCY

(I) PRELIMINARY ACTION-LOAD SHEDDING AND EFFECT;

(II) SHUTTING DOWN- TIME TAKEN;

(III) WARNING TO BE GIVEN;

(IV) EVACUATION NECESSARY;

(B) COOLING WATER DISCHARGES

(I) TEMPERATURE INCREASE-OXYGEN REDUCTION

(II) OBSERVED EFFECT-LOCAL AND DOWN STREAM

(III) PUBLIC REACTION

(C) FUELLING OF PLANT

(I) GUARANTEE OF CONTINUING AND AVAILABILITY

(II) PROBLEMS OF REPLACEMENT AND SHIPPING OF SPENT

FUEL CELLS.

(III) CONTRACT FOR DISPOSAL AND REPROCESSING OF

IRRADIATED FUEL.

(D) PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE LIFE OF THE PLANT WHICH I AM PRESUMING WILL BE OF THE BOILING WATER REACTOR TYPE.

(E) HANDLING OF THE PROTESTS/OPPOSITIONS FROM THE STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY WHICH IS KNOWN TO EXIST IN THE USA

5. "IN ADDITION, I SHOULD LIKE TO LEARN OF PRESENT THINKING OF THE ECONOMICS OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS COMPARED WITH OIL FIRED PLANTS AND WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ANY STRENGTH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HONG K 09447 150953Z

ENDING OF THE VIEW THAT OIL IS TOO PRECIOUS TO BE USED AS FUEL.

6. " I DO NOT IMAGINE THAT ALL THE INFORMATION THAT I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE WILL BE READILY AVAILABLE AND WHAT I ENVISAGE IS SIMPLY A MEETING IN WASHINGTON TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS WHEN I CAN EXPLAIN THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS WHICH EXIST IN HONG KONG AS FAR AS OPERATING A NUCLEAR PLANT IS CONCERNED, DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS

AND ARRANGE FOR WHATEVER INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO BE SENT TO HONG KONG AT A LATER DATE. I HAVE SET ASIDE THE AFTERNOON OF WESENDAY, THE 27TH AND THURSDAY, THE 28TH FOR THSE TALKS. I COULD EXTEND THEM TO FRIDAY THE 29TH IF NECESSARY BUT WOULD PREFER NOT TO DO SO AS I DO NOT WISH TO TAKE UP THE TIME OF YOUR OFFICIALS WHOM I AM SURE ARE EXTREMELY BUSH PEOPLE. YOU WILL UNDERSTAND FROM THE ABOVE THAT IT IS REALLY NOT NECESSARY FOR ME TO VISIT THE POWER PLANTS AS I HAVE NO WISH TO WASTE TIME ON AN "ON THE SITE" INSPECTION AS I AM FAIRLY FAMILIAR WIITH NEUCLEAR POWER PLANS.

7. " I AGAIN APOLOGIZE FOR THIS SHORT NOTICE OF MY TRIP AND WILL FULLY UNDERSTAND IF IT IS TOO LATE TO HELP BUT I THINK YOU UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION AND THE BACKGROUND.

8. "FINNALY, IF SOMETHING CAN BE ARRANGED I WONDER IF YOUR PEOPLE COULD BOOK ME INTO A HOTEL FOR THE NIGHT OF WESENDAY, THE 27TH AND IN THEIR REPLY LET ME HAVE THE DETAILS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE. (SIGNED)(J.J. ROBSON)
SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: ROBSON WILL HAVE A VERY LARGE SAY IN WHETHER HONG KONG BUILDS ANUCLEAR POWER PLANT. IF IT DOES, IT IS HIGHLY POSSIBLE THAT A US SUPPLIER WILL RECEIVE THE CONTRACT. THEREFORE, I URGENTLY REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE AS MUCH ASSISTANCE AS POSSIBLE TO ROBSON DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT. SPECIFICALLY WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO INFORM HIM OF SECURITY CLEARENCES AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS BEFORE HE LEAVES HONG KONG AUGUST 22. IF MORE INFO IS REQUIRED FOR CLEARENCE PROCEDURES PLEASE LET US KNOW BY IMMEDIATE CABLE.
CROSS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK09447
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750282-0802
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750849/aaaabqzh.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR POWER: VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF J. J. ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
TAGS: ASEC, OVIP, HK, (ROBSON, J J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006